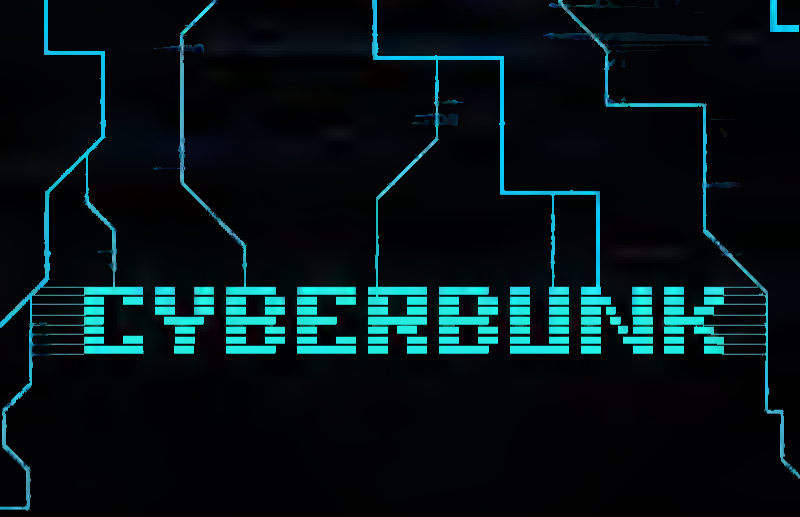
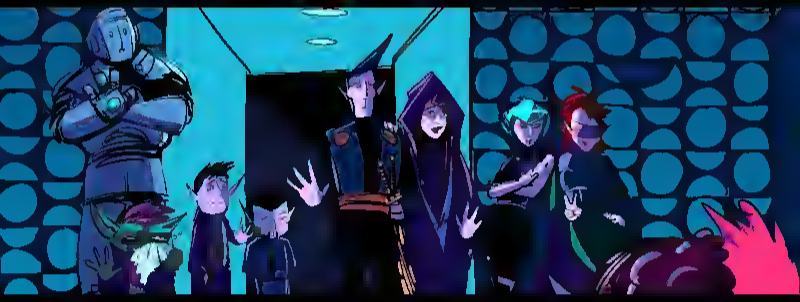
CREATED BY BRADLEY MASON_



WORDS AND LETTERS BY SAM MACHADO
WITH EDISON RODGERS_

ART BY CYNTHIA SOUSA MACHADO
AND EDISON RODGERS
WITH SAM MACHADO_

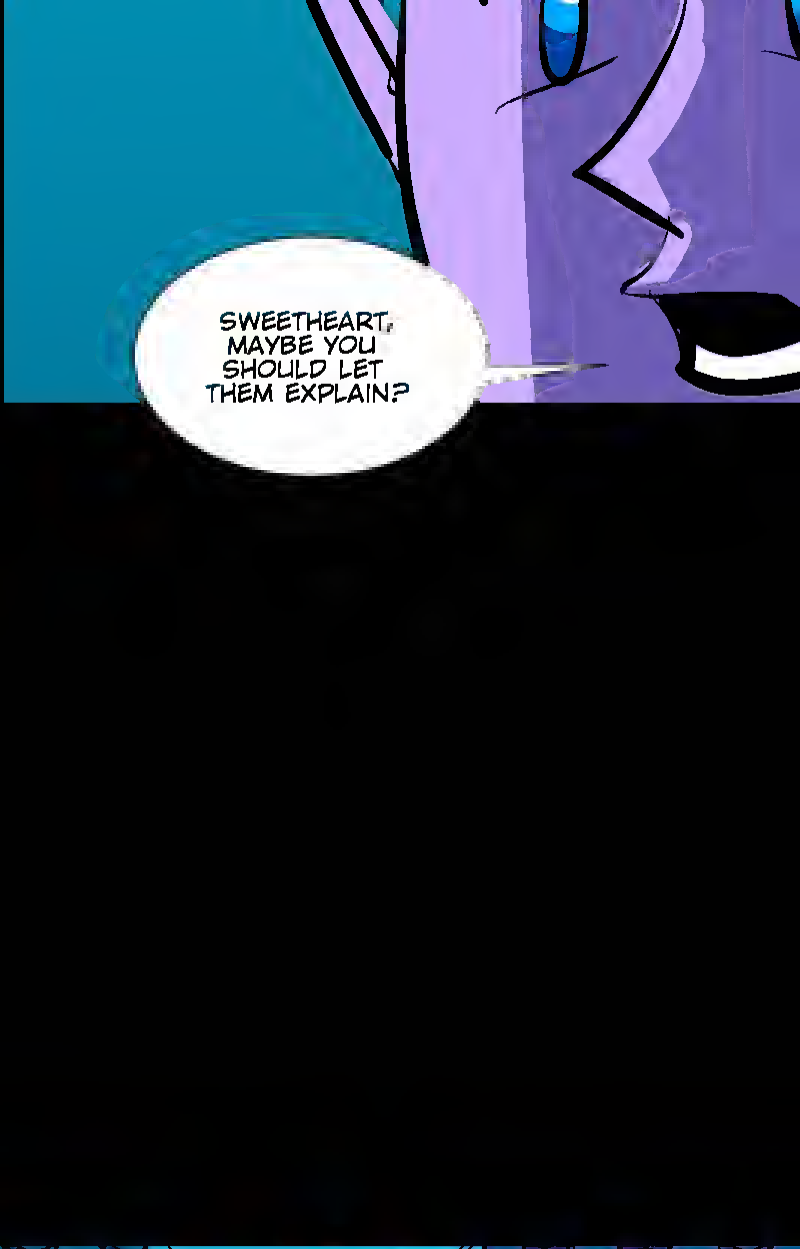


THESE ARE MY FRIENDS.
...HELLO.

I KNOW I HAVE A LOT TO EXPLAIN, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME. I NEED YOUR HELP.

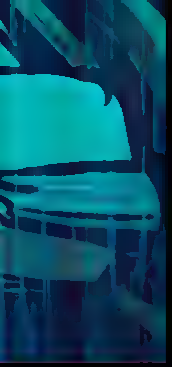
MY TEAM IS UNAWARE OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

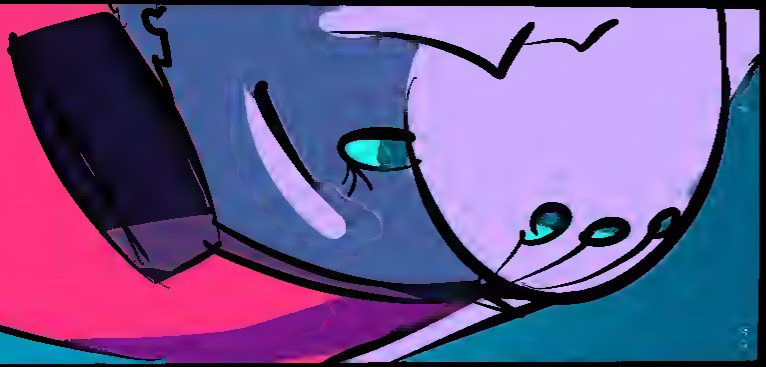
AND THE AUTHORITY'S DRONES HAVE NO IDEA THEY'RE HERE.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE WANTED BY THE PNA, THE SA, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE.
AND THAT'S JUST FOR THE CURRENT SET OF CRIMES.


SWEETHEART, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET THEM EXPLAIN?

OKAY THEN. LET'S START WITH WHO THESE MEN ARE AND WHAT THEY WANT WITH YOU.

THAME!





I AM PYTHIA

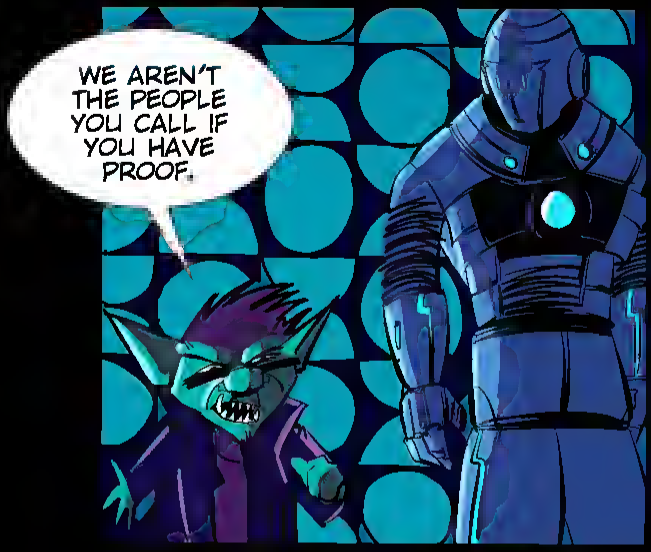
LUKAS STARR IS A FIXER I HIRED TO RETURN THE PROGENITOR ARTIFACT.
HE NEVER DELIVERED IT.
WE'VE BEEN CHASING HIM EVER SINCE.

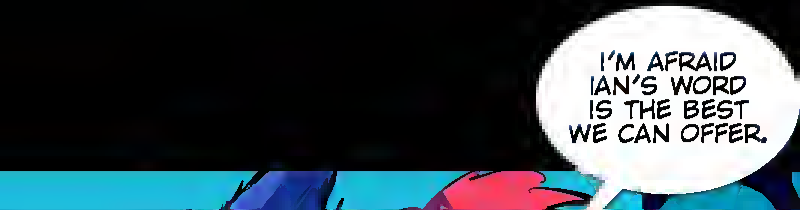
LUKAS STARR IS A GUEST EXPECTED TO ATTEND TONIGHT'S GALA AND IS EXPECTED TO GIFT THE AMBASSADOR. THE AUTHORITY PAINTED A COLORFUL PICTURE.

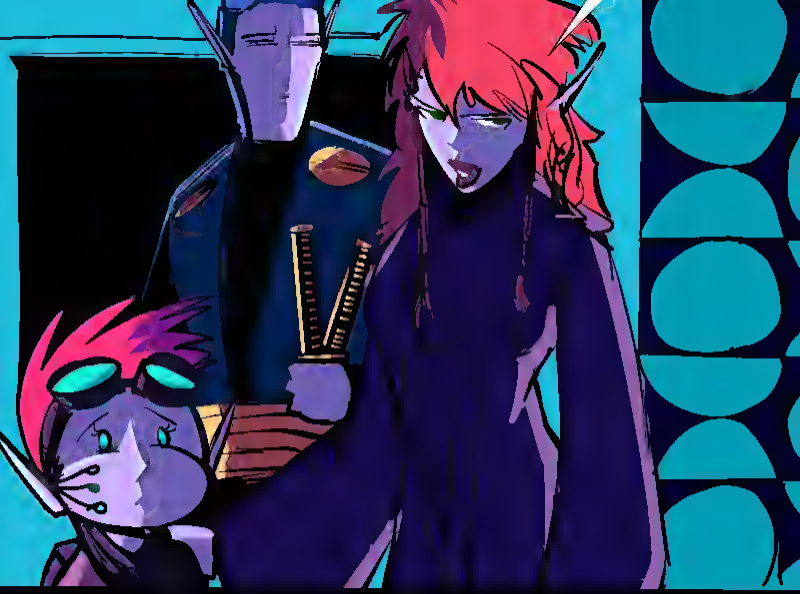
WE THINK LUKAS IS GOING TO USE THE GALA TO HAND OFF THE ARTIFACT TO THE FORGE.

DO YOU HAVE PROOF OF THIS?

PROOF?
I DON'T THINK SHE GETS WHAT WE DO.


WE AREN'T THE PEOPLE YOU CALL IF YOU HAVE PROOF.


I'M AFRAID IAN'S WORD IS THE BEST WE CAN OFFER.



LIEUTENANT KORRAN OF THE PNA DESCRIBES YOUR TEAM AS VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

IN FACT THEY WANTED ME TO CANCEL TONIGHT'S GALA BECAUSE OF THE THREAT YOU POSSESS.

I KNOW YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MORE THAN JUST US. BUT CRIMINALS OR NOT, YOU DON'T WANT TO LET STARR DELIVER THAT

ARTIFACT.

THE FORGE ARE NOT WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE. WITH THAT SPHERE, NO ONE IS SAFE.

WHY IAN? WHAT'S SO DANGEROUS ABOUT THAT ANTIQUE?

IT'S NOT AN ANTIQUE. IT'S A PIECE OF PRECURSOR TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL CHANGE POST-ORGANIC TECH FOREVER.

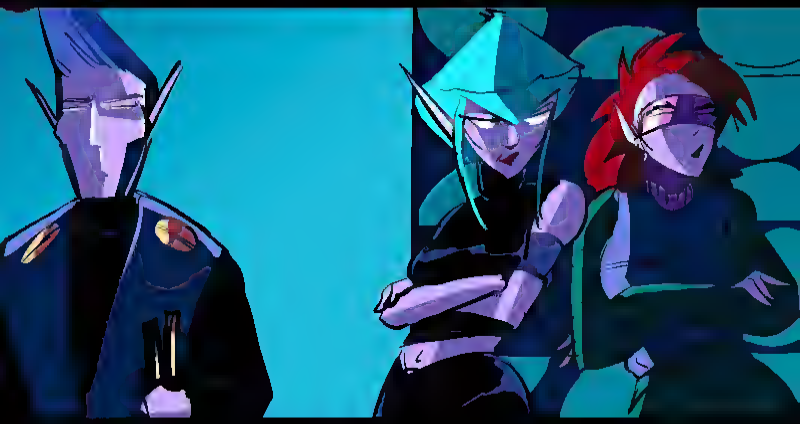
I DIDN'T REALIZE WE WERE TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT THAT.

LIKE THE TEMPLE IN CANYON CITY?

SO THE STORIES ABOUT THE PRECURSORS ARE TRUE?

PRECURSOR TECHNOLOGY, FORGE CONSPIRECIES AND LIVING EYE INSPECTORS.

IAN, THIS IS HARD TO SWALLOW EVEN IF I BELIEVED EVERYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY. YOU KNOW THE SNOWNOMISH POSITION ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE LIVING EYE CONDUCTING CLANDESTINE WORK ABROAD.

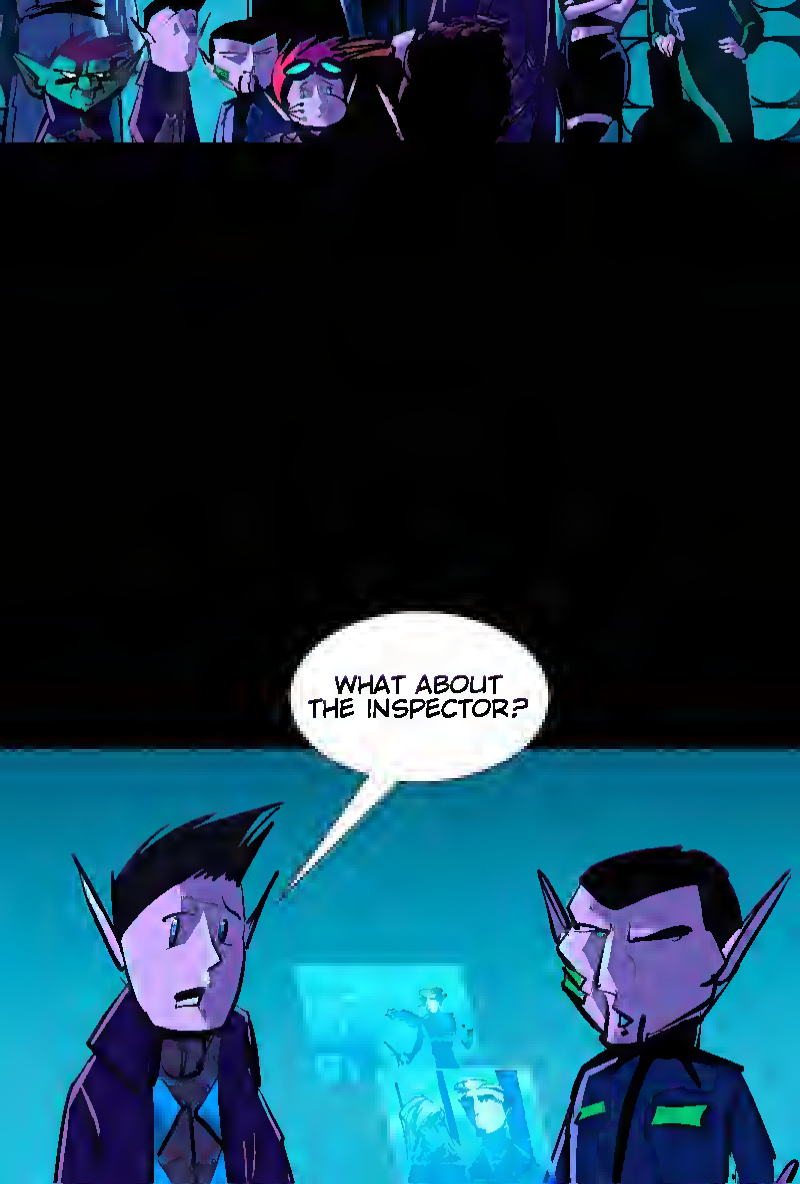

OT
MENTION SNOWNOMISH'S
POSITION ON VIOLENCE

MADAME BOMBASTUS, IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO CONVINCE YOU OF THE FORGE THREAT?

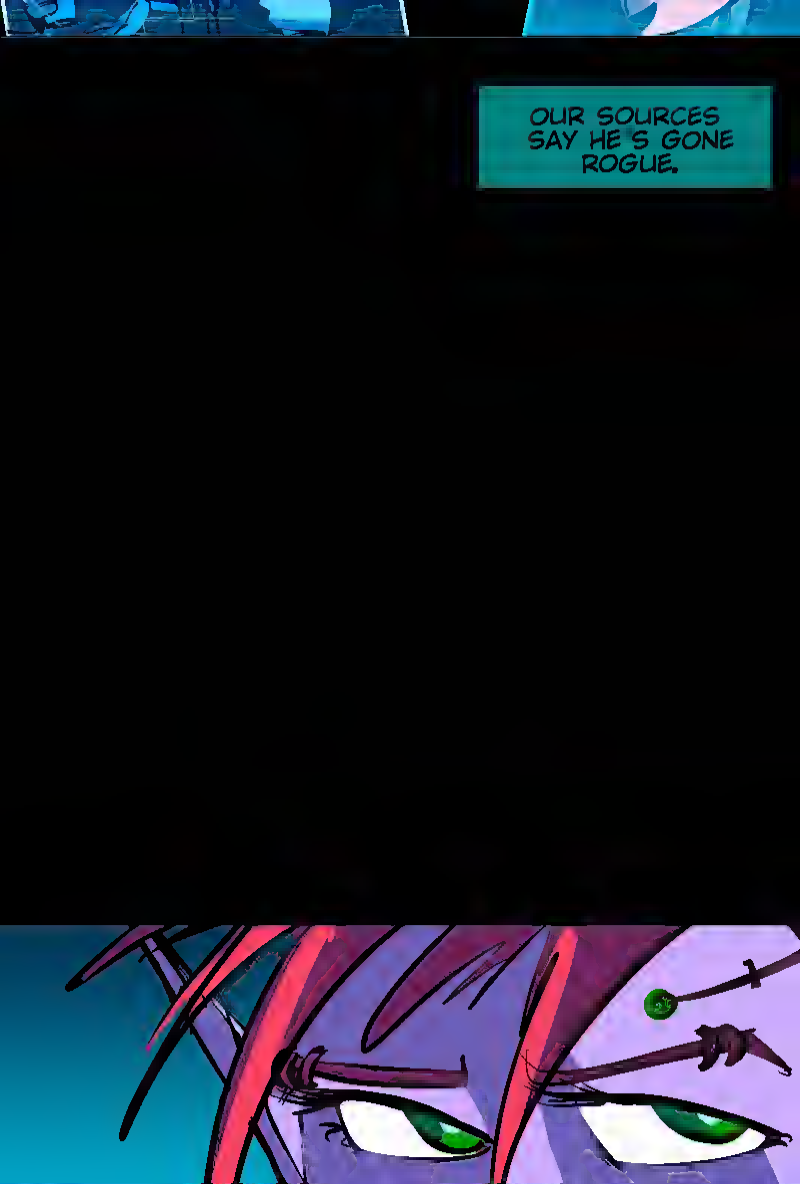
...I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU CAN.

IAN, WHAT'S SO DANGEROUS ABOUT THESE ARTIFACTS?

THE NANITES ARE MORE ADVANCED THAN ANYTHING THE FORGE CAN EVEN IMAGINE.
AND IAN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HACK THEIR PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE-

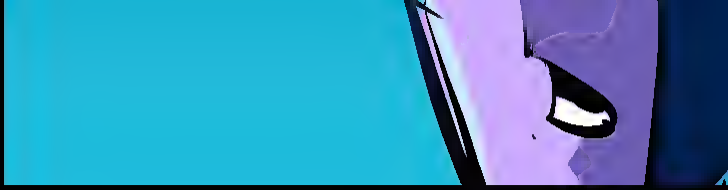

WHAT ABOUT THE INSPECTOR?

WHY IS HE PALLING AROUND WITH THE TECH PRIESTS?
HE'S BEEN HERE FOR DAYS.


OUR SOURCES SAY HE'S GONE ROGUE.

THAME WOULD NEVER BETRAY THE EYE. HE'S STUBBORNLY DEVOTED TO IT.
HE GAVE HIMSELF UP SO WE COULD ESCAPE THE WASTES.

ONCE THEY FIGURE OUT THE ARTIFACTS WE GAVE THEM ARE COUNTERFIT. HIS LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU EXPECT ME TO DO.
WE CAN'T EXACTLY ARREST THE AMBASSADOR OR STARR?

MOM, YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?